

officer back home in Michigan. In 2007, Agent Terry was offered a job with the United States Border Patrol—a job he'd always dreamed of.

Agent Terry lost his life during a shootout with armed thugs in Rio Rico, Arizona—just north of the Mexican border. Shortly after his death, his sister, Michelle, told the Associated Press, "His dream all his life was to be a Federal agent. It was always, 'I want to be a cop. I want to get the bad guys.' It was his life. He said it was dangerous, but he loved what he did and wanted to make a difference."

Mr. Speaker, we will never forget Agent Terry and the sacrifice he made. We will continue to keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as we hear from Members of this House every day, I thought it would be refreshing to bring the people's voice directly to this floor. So I asked my constituents to send me their thoughts that I could deliver as a 1-minute speech.

The following is from Susan Sigmund of San Diego, who sent me this on the Affordable Care Act to be reviewed by the Supreme Court. She offered: "Being given the opportunity to speak before you, I wanted to make these 60 seconds witty, timely, and relevant to all. Having failed at that, I will simply discuss my main concern right now. It's the future of the health care law. The Supreme Court could strike it down next year.

"I have a preexisting health condition and will die in about 3 years unless I am able to buy a health insurance policy. I'm sure I am one of many facing this bleak possibility.

"As I understand it, if the mandate section requiring a policy goes, so goes the provision barring preexisting condition discrimination. If the time comes, please do the honorable thing and vote to allow your constituents with preexisting conditions to buy health care insurance. Lives depend on it. Thank you."

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mrs. Sigmund for bringing to the House her thoughts on health care.

REBUILD THE AMERICAN DREAM FOR THE 99% ACT

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus introduced an important bill, and it's called the "Rebuild the American Dream for the 99% Act." This bill, this important "Rebuild the American Dream for the 99% Act," would create 5 million jobs, Mr. Speaker, over 2 years, and cut the deficit by \$2 trillion over 10 years.

The "Rebuild the American Dream for the 99% Act" creates direct-hire programs to put Americans back to work; provides grants for on-the-job training and employment services; invests \$50 billion for infrastructure projects; creates a national infrastructure bank; improves "buy American" provisions; ends the practice of foreign currency manipulation; protects wounded veterans from job discrimination; extends unemployment insurance, including for people at 99 weeks; and supports the TANF emergency contingency fund to help States pay for the cost of hiring unemployed workers. We can do these things. The "Rebuild the American Dream Act for the 99% Act" does it.

□ 1230

H.R. 3650, ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the calamity of news reports proliferating across America regarding the epidemic proportions of child sexual abuse, I introduce Zero Tolerance For Child Sexual Abuse, H.R. 3650. I ask my colleagues to join me for a national statement of abhorring and standing against the abuse of our children.

On a much happier topic, I thank our leader for her comments on our returning troops, and I look forward to introducing a resolution thanking and congratulating our returning troops, having one day or two days in which our Members will join me in wearing a yellow ribbon and, as well, commemorating the return of our wonderful troops and thanking their families from wherever they have come for this holiday season.

What greater gift than the men and women who have served on the front lines to honor us by their presence here in the holiday season. Our message should be "no silent State, no silent neighborhood, no silent community" in reference to honoring them as they come home.

OPPOSING H.R. 3630, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Why did I vote against H.R. 3630 yesterday? I could list many reasons, but I only have 1 minute so here are three.

One, the bill extends unemployment insurance for some jobless Americans and then drastically cuts months off of benefits for others, and it makes all who are unemployed jump through demeaning hoops in order to get any benefits.

Two, in order to reluctantly give the middle class a payroll tax break, it

asks seniors and people with disabilities to pay more for Medicare, but it refuses to ask millionaires and billionaires to pay one more cent.

Three, the bill threatens public health by preventing the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating dangerous mercury and other emissions, and then it goes a step further by threatening the public health by cutting the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

H.R. 3630 is a political statement, not a serious proposal. What a statement to make—more support for dirty air and water, increased health care costs for middle-income people, and less help for those struggling to find jobs.

NO VETERAN DIES ALONE PROGRAM

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the No Veteran Dies Alone program at the veterans hospital in Fresno, California.

During the holiday season, it is appropriate to give thanks. Members of the military follow the sacred oath of "leave no man behind." The No Veteran Dies Alone program follows the ethos that ensures all veterans know that they are not forgotten in their remaining days.

Men and women, some of whom work at the hospital, volunteer their time to care for those who have worn the uniform of the U.S. military. This innovative volunteer program helps our veteran hospice patients spend their final days in friendship and warmth.

During the holiday season, may we seek to lead lives as compassionately as the volunteers who selflessly serve our veterans in the No Veteran Dies Alone program.

SUPPORTING THE PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I rise today to urge support for the Primary Care Workforce Access Improvement Act.

This bipartisan bill, which I've introduced with my colleague Mr. THOMPSON from California, will ensure that some of the most rural parts of our country will have greater access to doctors and that the high quality of health care that we value as Americans will continue. Right now, some areas of Washington State don't have enough doctors because there isn't enough funding for their residencies. Other areas, like Garfield County, simply have no doctors at all.

As cochair of the Congressional Rural Health Caucus, I can tell you

this legislation directly helps by bringing more physicians to places like eastern Washington by providing creative avenues for funding our graduate medical education. It also helps solve the longer-term problem of too few doctors in rural areas, because studies show that, when people do their residencies in the rural areas, they're more likely to practice in the rural areas.

I urge the support of this legislation, and I thank Mr. THOMPSON for joining me in introducing it.

RELUCTANT OPPOSITION TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, which we will be voting on today.

The bill does include provisions that are vital to our national defense, but it also includes provisions that present a false choice between our safety and our values.

Section 1021 would authorize the indefinite military detention of all terrorism suspects. Allowing the United States military to detain individuals, some of whom may be innocent, without charge or trial during this endless war on terrorism undermines our most defining principles as a Nation of individual freedom and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, our civilian law enforcement agencies have proven themselves capable of apprehending, interrogating, and prosecuting terrorism suspects. In fact, civilian courts have overseen the successful prosecution of more than 400 terrorists—the military courts only six.

This Congress should not impose these law enforcement duties upon our troops. It is un-American and unconstitutional. We should reject the false choice between our short-term security and our long-term survival as the leader of the free world.

SUPPORT H.R. 1905, THE IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. I rise today in support of the Iran Threat Reduction Act.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in dialogue and I very much believe in diplomacy; but despite an unprecedented effort by President Obama in his speech to the Iranian people for outreach, the Iranian Government was unreciprocal in any kind of response. Instead, what we've seen is that they are pursuing the development of nuclear weapons full speed ahead. Last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency further confirmed in a report detailing efforts by the Iranian Government Iran's nuclear aspirations to acquire

the skills needed to weaponize highly enriched uranium.

This is extremely dangerous. Iran has had a longstanding relationship with Hezbollah, which continues to condone violence as a political tactic; and Iran is continuing to be the major bulwark of support for the brutal crackdown by the Syrian Government on the democratic aspirations of its people.

I urge my colleagues to support the Iran Threat Reduction Act.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 493 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 493

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommend if applicable.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time through the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1(c) of rule XV, if the text of the measure proposed in a motion is made available to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner (including pursuant to clause 3 of rule XXIX) on the calendar day before consideration.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day of the first session of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress after December 16, 2011—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved;

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment; and

(c) bills and resolutions introduced during the period addressed by this section shall be numbered, listed in the Congressional Record, and when printed shall bear the date of introduction, but may be referred by the Speaker at a later time.

SEC. 4. On any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress before January 17, 2012—

(a) the Speaker may dispense with organizational and legislative business;

(b) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved if applicable; and

(c) the Chair at any time may declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 5. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the du-

ration of the period addressed by sections 3 and 4 as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

□ 1240

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days during which they may revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides a standard conference report rule and other end-of-the-year housekeeping provisions.

H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2012, has been considered in committee. It was debated on the House floor. It included 152 amendments made in order before passing this Chamber, and that was done in May with an overwhelming and bipartisan majority. It went through the Senate. And now we bring to you today a bipartisan conference report.

I have to commend the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), as well as the ranking member, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), for truly continuing the tradition of bipartisanship and mutual cooperation in the Armed Services Committee and in this particular bill.

There are some times when Congress has a reputation of being somewhat contentious and partisan, sometimes deservedly so. However, I have been a member of the Armed Services Committee myself for several years, and I recognize that they clearly understand Article I of the Constitution, which requires a common defense of our country; and in that particular committee, partisanship really has been checked at the door regarding the product of the Armed Services Committee, which is this annual Defense authorization bill.

In its essence, I think the process has been good, the efforts have been good, and it has made a significant issue that we are bringing here to the floor ready to pass in its final version from the conference committee. There are significant underlying issues that I think we will talk about during the course of the discussion on the rule and perhaps on the bill as well, but those things, I think, will be handled as they appear at that particular time.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my friend from Utah for yielding the